

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 2, 2005. Claims 1, 8-10, 12-13, 18, 21-25 and 27 are pending in the application. Claim 27 is added. Claims 2-7, 11, 14-17, 19, 20 and 26 are canceled. In view of the foregoing amendment reconsideration and allowance of the presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indicated allowability of claims 4, 8-12, 16, 20-24 and 26. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 with the subject matter of claims 2, 3 and allowable claim 4. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is allowable. Applicants have amended allowable dependent 8 into independent form with the subject matter of claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, independent claim 8 is allowable. Applicants have added new independent claim 27, which includes the subject matter of claims 1, 2 and allowable dependent claim 11. Accordingly, new independent claim 27 is allowable. Dependent claim 12 has been amended to depend from independent claim 27.

Applicants have amended independent claim 13 with the subject matter of claim 14 and allowable claim 20. Accordingly, independent claim 13 is allowable. Applicants have amended allowable dependent claim 23 into independent form with the subject matter of claims 13 and 14. Accordingly, independent claim 23 is allowable. Dependent claims 9-10, 12, 18, 21-22 and 24 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend either directly or indirectly from allowable independent claims. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ 2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

CONCLUSION

In summary, Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding claim rejections be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that presently pending claims 1, 8-10, 12-13, 18, 21-25 and 27 are allowable and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any comment or believe that a teleconference would expedite prosecution of the pending claims, Applicants request that the Examiner telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH FROHWEIN TEMPEL
GREENLEE BLAHA LLC
Customer No. 35856

By: 

Michael J. Tempel
Registration No. 41,344
(770) 709-0056